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Fax Cover Sheet

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Message

DOCKET D2446

Please see attached **Petition and Amendment; Request for Approval to Make Drawing Changes.**

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IN THE SPECIFICATION

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 1, line 16 with the following rewritten paragraph:

A
--In the manufacture of electronic equipment and appliances it is common to connect component devices such as photodiodes and lasers, for example, to circuit boards commonly termed "plug in" boards. An example of such a plug in board is a transimpedance amplifier (TIA) used in CATV-RF Broadband applications. Plug in boards permit ease of assembly or replacement and a means by which component devices in an electronic product are integrated into the circuitry of the product.--

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend Claims 1, 7-8 and 10 as follows:

- AR*
1. (Amended) A bracket for mounting an electrical component device comprising:
a first end, said first end having a substantially semi-circular shape and an inner and outer surface, whereby said inner surface and said substantially semi-circular shape permit an electrical component device to be retained thereon;
a second end; and
a shaft connecting said first and second ends, said shaft having at least one mounting point for attaching said bracket to a mounting surface,
wherein upon attaching said bracket to said mounting surface, said electrical component device, retained at said first end, may be electrically connected to said mounting surface.

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7. (Amended) The bracket of claim 1 wherein said a common mounting surface comprises a transimpedance amplifier.

8. (Amended) A method for mounting an electrical component device comprising the steps of:

mounting an electrical component device on a mounting bracket, said bracket having a first end, the first end having a substantially semi-circular shape and an inner and outer surface, whereby the inner surface and substantially semi-circular shape permit the electrical component device to be retained thereon, a second end and a shaft connecting the first and second ends, attaching said mounting bracket at the mounting point to a mounting surface; and connecting said electrical component device to said mounting surface.

10. (Amended) The method of claim 8 wherein said mounting surface is a transimpedance amplifier.

REMARKS

Claims 1-10 are pending in the application. Claims 1, 7-8 and 10 have been amended.

Attached hereto is a marked up version of the changes made to the specification and claims by the current amendment. The attached page is captioned "Version with markings to show changes made". Claims 1 and 8 are independent claims. The remaining claims depend from these independent claims. Reconsideration of Claims 1-10 is respectfully requested.

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DRAWINGS

The drawings were objected to on page 1 of the Action. New informal drawings which clearly show the element numbers in each figure and also correct the illustration of the photodiode 102 in Figure 1, are submitted herewith. Figure 1 has also been corrected to be labeled "prior art" as noted in the Action.

With regard to the correction of the illustration of mounting bracket 100 in Figure 1, now clearly shown as mounted to motherboard 101, Applicants respectfully submit that as described in the specification as filed, at page 4, lines 13-21, Figure 1 was intended to illustrate "a mounting bracket 100 mounted on a motherboard 101". In addition, "[r]emovably mounted on the bracket 100 is a photodiode device 102, comprising leads 103 which are connected to a plug in circuit board 104". Figure 1 as filed, however, showed only a photodiode device 102 mounted directly to plug in board 104. A bracket 100 "mounted to motherboard 101" and, on which "photodiode device 102 is mounted" is now shown in the corrected Figure 1 submitted herewith in the accompanying Request for Approval to Make Drawing Changes. No new matter has been added. Approval of the changes to Figure 1 is therefore requested and withdrawal of the objection to the drawings is respectfully requested.

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OBJECTIONS TO THE CLAIMS

Claim 1 was objected to because of the informalities noted in the Action. The suggestion provided has been adopted herein to overcome this objection. Accordingly, withdrawal of the objections to the claims is requested.

SPECIFICATION

It is believed that the term "transimpedance amplifier" is a generic term and is *not* a trademark. However, Applicants have amended the specification to correct the previously used "Trans-Impedance-Amplifier" to read --transimpedance amplifier--.

CLAIM REJECTIONS: SECTION 112

Claims 1-7 were rejected under Section 112, second paragraph, as indefinite. Specifically the Action notes that the phrase of "an electrical component device....removably retained" is not understood.

It is respectfully submitted that the term "removably retained" has appeared in the claims of over 450 patents in the USPTO database of issued patents in a wide variety of technologies. In the bracket recited in independent Claim 1, the "first end" previously recited a substantially semi-circular shape and an inner and outer surface, whereby the inner surface and substantially semi-circular shape permitted an electrical component device to be "removably retained" thereon - i.e., to retain the device but to also allow the device to be easily removed from the first end.

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However, in order to eliminate this as an issue, Applicants have carefully reviewed the claims and have removed the term "removably" from independent Claim 1. It is therefore submitted that the Section 112, second paragraph rejection has been obviated and withdrawal of the rejection is therefore requested.

CLAIM REJECTIONS: SECTIONS 102 and 103

Amended independent Claim 1 is directed to a bracket, for mounting an electrical component device, the bracket having a first end, a second end and a shaft. The first end has a substantially semi-circular shape and an inner and outer surface, whereby the inner surface and substantially semi-circular shape permit an electrical component device to be retained thereon. The shaft connecting the first and second ends has at least one mounting point for attaching the bracket to a mounting surface. Upon attaching the bracket to the mounting surface, the electrical component device, retained on the first end of the bracket, may be electrically connected to the mounting surface.

Claim 1 was rejected under Section 102(e) as being anticipated by US Patent 6,151,221 (Van Lerberghe) and Claims 2-10 were rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Van Lerberghe in view of Prior Art.

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Specifically, with regard to Claim 1, the Action notes that "Van Lerberghe discloses a bracket (7, column 3, line 4) for mounting an electrical component device (5, column 2, line 65) as shown in figures 1-2 comprising: a first end having a substantially semi-circular shape (13 - figure 2a) and an inner and outer surface, whereby said inner surface and said substantially semi-circular shape permit an electrical component device to be removably attached thereon; a second end (part of leg 24 - figure 2b); and a shaft (23 - figure 2b) connecting said first and second ends (see figure 2b)".

Applicants respectfully traverse the outstanding rejections. Van Lerberghe does *not* teach or suggest a bracket having an "end with a substantially semi-circular shape" - rather Fig 2a illustrating an L-shaped wire clamp of Van Lerberghe shows an end of the clamp with a *channel 12 having a slightly widened end portion 13*" - the end of the clamp itself simply is *not* substantially semi-circular. In addition, the inner surface of "widened end portion 13" of Van Lerberghe's wire clamp (which again, the Action incorrectly reads upon as Applicants' bracket having a substantially semi-circular shape) does *not* "permit an electrical component device to be retained thereon" - but rather the "wire leads extending from the component are secured to the printed circuit board via wire clamps soldered directly onto the surface of the contact faces". The "first end" of the *bracket* defined by Applicants' amended independent Claim 1 has an inner surface and substantially semi-circular shape that permit *an electrical component device itself* (not just the wire leads extending therefrom) to be retained on the bracket.

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Independent method Claim 8 is directed to a method for mounting an electrical component device comprising the steps of mounting an electrical component device on a mounting bracket, attaching the mounting bracket to a mounting surface and connecting the electrical component device to the mounting surface. Claim 8 is believed patentable over Van Lerberghe for at least the same reasons as Claim 1.


Each of dependent Claims 2-7 and 9 were rejected based on Van Lerberghe in view of Prior Art. It is respectfully submitted that each of the dependent claims is patentable over the cited art for the same reasons as submitted above with respect to the independent claims from which they depend and as reciting additional patentable limitations.

It is respectfully submitted that in regard to the above amendment and remarks that Claims 1-10 are now in condition for allowance. Should the Examiner be of the view that an interview would expedite consideration of this Amendment or of the application at large, request is made

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that the Examiner telephone the Applicants' undersigned attorney at (908) 518-7700 in order that any outstanding issues be resolved.

Respectfully submitted,



Karin L. Williams
Registration No. 36,721

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I hereby certify that this document and any document referenced herein has been transmitted via facsimile to the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office at (703) 872-9318 on February 25, 2002.

Karin L. Williams, Reg. No. 36,721

(Printed Name of Person Mailing Correspondence)


(Signature)

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